

*The*  
**THOREAU  
SOCIETY  
BULLETIN**

BULLETIN SIXTY-ONE

FALL, 1957

THE "SAVE WALDEN" CAMPAIGN . . .

On Sept. 13, the "Save Walden" Committee won a hearing in Middlesex Superior Court for its bill of complaint against the Middlesex County Commissioners on the \$50,000 Walden Pond beach project. On Sept. 22, Judge Edmund R. Dewing visited Walden Pond to get background for his decision. On Sept. 24, Judge Dewing ordered the county commissioners to cease work on the project and gave them until Oct. 4 to file pleas or demurrers on points of law. On Oct. 7, the firm of Hale & Dorr, counsellors at law, which has been retained by the "Save Walden" Committee, filed an objection to the county commissioners' demurrer. A hearing on the case is now scheduled for Oct. 21. Frederick G. Fisher, Jr., of the firm of Hale & Dorr, has informed the court that it is prepared to file a petition for a writ of mandamus. It is likely now that the case will be referred to the Supreme Judicial Court.

Although the firm of Hale & Dorr is charging the "Save Walden" Committee less than its standard legal fees, it is obvious that the cost of saving Walden will be great. Enclosed with this bulletin is an appeal for contributions to the legal fund. We hope that not only will many members feel able to contribute but that they will call the appeal to the attention of their friends.

SOME COMMENTS ON THE "SAVE WALDEN" COMMITTEE'S WORK . . .

Odell Shepard: "Many thousands of people throughout the world are shocked and angered by the desecration at Walden Pond."

Prof. Walter P. Gropius: "The Walden Pond Reservation is an important cultural shrine of the nation. .... To preserve its beauty beyond all possible local requirements of use should be a matter of course..... It is obvious that a misconception as to the right proportion of such (recreational) activities has mobilized public opinion against action already planned."

T. Morris Longstreth: "I should hate to be reminded daily that we are as materialistic a people as foreigners charge, a statement I have always considered as coming from insufficient knowledge of us. It does seem that natural beauty must be sacrificed to utility every time..... Walden is unique, irreplaceable, and of value, even in the dollars and cents that have such talking power."

Frederic Babcock: "I trust all lovers of literature, and all those who have profited from the enduring lessons taught by Thoreau, will unite to resist this latest effort to obliterate this seat of American culture."

(Cont. on Page 2)

IN MEMORY OF EDWARD H. WANNEMACHER

It is our sad duty to record the death of Edward H. Wannemacher in Philadelphia on July 3, 1957. Mr. Wannemacher was one of the earliest and most devoted members of the Thoreau Society. Although business duties prevented his attending the annual meetings, he regularly made trips to Concord to visit the Thoreau sites and frequently contributed notes for use in our bulletin. He was an enthusiastic collector of Thoreauviana and a photograph of some of his treasures is included in Thoreau Society Booklet #2.

It was my privilege to have known Ed personally and to have spent many hours in conversation with him and to have corresponded with him for many years. I shall miss him greatly.

This issue of the Thoreau Society Bulletin is dedicated to his memory. It has been printed from the proceeds of an Edward H. Wannemacher Memorial Fund established by his fellow employees at the James G. Biddle Co., 1316 Arch St., Philadelphia.

THOREAU SOCIETY BOOKLET NO. TWELVE

It is a great pleasure to mail to our members Thoreau Society Booklet #12: Prof. Kenneth Allan Robinson's "Thoreau and the Wild Appetite," which was read at the 1956 annual meeting of the society in Concord. The booklet has been published for us by Westholm Publications of Hanover, New Hampshire, and printed by the Stinehour Press of Lunenburg, Vermont. A similar edition is being distributed to the Friends of Dartmouth College Library. And a special bound edition, illustrated with woodcuts by J. J. Lankes, and limited to 150 copies has been issued by the Westholm Publications. Members may order copies of this special bound edition for five dollars from Westholm Publications, Box 82, Hanover, N.H. The cost of printing Booklet #12 has been covered by the life memberships of Robert Miller, Douglas Nagle, F. Porter Sargent, W. D. Sutton, Edyth Walker, Mrs. H. L. Wells, Mrs. Caleb Wheeler, and Miss Eleanor Whitcomb. Life membership in the Thoreau Society is \$25.00.

PAGES FROM SOPHIA THOREAU'S JOURNAL

Edited by George Hendrick

The following fragments from Sophia Thoreau's Journal, now in the Houghton Library at Harvard, are edited with the permission of Mr. William A. Jackson. The journal entries, for the most part undated, shed new light on the character of Sophia and tend to disprove some of the charges of emotional and intellectual sterility made against her.

Tuesday May 11

How pitiable the condition of that portion of my fellow men who have no appreciation of the beauties of Nature, Who live in the constant pursuit of necessities; ignobly surrendering up their being to a care of the animal nature; leading mean and unworthy lives, without taste or elegant accomplishments to redeem so slavish an existence. So great are my pleasures in Nature's Court that I would the whole human family might

know by delightful experience the sweetness of such joys . Nature ever keeps open doors; aye courts our attention with her graceful forms and seducing melodies; exhibiting in striking contrast to the sights and sounds of noisy, filthy, money seeking towns & cities. And shall we refuse to accept her invitations to indulge in the gratification of those tastes strictly in accordance with faculties which our Maker has implanted within our breasts? Let us not deny ourselves the exercise of our birth-right.

The last subject was entered into amid a din of words; an unfolding of a bundle of gossip enough to drive a man to Nova Zembla for quiet. I was just thinking whether any being living could have the hardihood to enter upon such details in one of Nature's noblest groves . If such an individual could be found I should hesitate to compare him to any other surrounding object than a rotten fungus. What a divine gift are words! and how uncommon cheap too! plenty for one's own use and an all sufficiency for friends. They are getting to be an intolerable curse: they crawl over one like the cockroaches & centipedes of a tropical region. These scandal mongers proceed too with evident contempt of one's delicate sense of hearing not recognizing that as words are multiplied ears grow dull ; they pour out a torrent of ejaculations which to the unsophisticated are absolutely the scarfing of their sense of decency & charity as well as auditory nerve. Clack! Clack! here we have it again! I believe it is the nature of sound to ascend! Most immediate relief would seem to esconce myself at the bottom of some deep well! So here goes!

Saturday 15th

"Through the wood" "Through the wood" all ye dispepsical hypochondriacal Sons of the medicine Chest! pensioners upon the favor of the apothecaries and ye may throw physic to the dogs. Aye walk out ye consumers of others good nature. let the fresh air of heaven visit your woebegone visages, and straighten the contractions of your disconsolate phizzes . Dont for heaven's sake carry around longer such a countenance as you have imposed upon the world for the last few years. Do for conscience' sake consider our feelings . All our senses are offended at your existence . Our Eyes! only consider what an appeal your sallow, peaked, lachrymose countenance makes to our optics! And our Ears! Heaven save the mark! All my perceptions reject you! Purify morally and physically if you please in some other region

July 22, 1840

Pray what is it to be poor? Johnson defines Poverty to be "necessity" "want of Riches" Shaks' speaks of it as "meanness"; "defect" — If necessity; do we not all need? are we not then all poor? Want of Riches how much? You are now possessed of ten thousand dollars, and want a hundred thousand. I have not money, and desire none; then are you poorer than myself. I shall not exchange situations

with you for ninety thousand dollars; for still wanting ten, I should be poorer by ten thousand dollars than I now am. Meanness is want of spirit. Defect want of completeness The four terms imply want Want then is poverty He only is rich who has no desires. Not the man who possesses is without desire. he has care, anxiety, & desires peace; and his possessions themselves are to him only an outward expression of his burning, inward desire. Pray what shall we do. I will go to bed! asleep; I shall be richer than a beggar, or a Rothschild awake.

Tonight I feel doleful, somewhat lachrymose, and desponding "Bluey." not also lately suicidal but viewing the world at a discount disposed to part with my lease of life for a very small "bonus" . Can say with truth I think this the vilest world I have ever been in. I'm getting to be ferocious; rather hope that no small children will come in my way just now; wouldn't be responsible . "Be-reaved Father," "distressed Mother" have very little weight with me at this instant —Dont feel very wicked either, am not in debt, not crossed in love or anything of that sort, but still dont feel quite right . I rather fear the kitchen cabinet have been concocting some indigestible compound to day as a specimen of extra skill . Wonder if cooks are ever siezed with mania through professional enthusiasm in the art? Recollect partaking once of some preserves prepared in a vessel not previously washed and unfortunately in company with a piece of hard soap. I call that Hydrophobous cooking. Partook of something to day they called pudding! took their word for it dont feel quite satisfied! Saw the bag out upon the grass drying this afternoon thought then it didn't look exactly like a common pudding bag . Hope there has been no mistake made! remember reading of a man who ground himself up in his sausage machine; dont exactly think a cook would stir herself into a Huckleberry pudding, but cant say; wouldn't be uncharitable, but certainly things in my chemical laboratory dont assimilate kindly; rather more chyme than chyle I fear, or something of that sort; hence my gloomy feelings—I'll wait for a little more proof, and then commend me to Epicurus if I dont hang them with their own pudding bag string.

24th

Oh what a nervous race of beings this world seems peopled with! I hear a woman laughing down stairs who is half dead with the toothache. And yet there is a class of individuals who would think every person that might laugh upon the same day on which he should have a fit of the cholic, an imposter.

SAVE WALDEN COMMENTS  
(Cont. from Page 1) . . .

Prof. Kenneth W. Cameron writes that the Executive Committee of the Emerson Society is "backing up the efforts of the Save Walden Committee" and Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison offers his name on any petitions "or any other way that might be helpful to the program."



George E. Pelletier: "Best wishes in your courageous leadership of the battle to preserve the integrity of a spiritual shrine as valued in American tradition as the Battleground or Valley Forge."

Roger Baldwin: "Walden is not just another pond, as the county commissioners appear to think; it is unique in our heritage of a great era of American thought and ideals."

Henry Beetle Hough: "The desecration of Walden is shocking. Something will have been gained, however, if the present uprising of public opinion -- an enlightened public opinion which is nationwide -- can bring about a new policy. It should be about as difficult to destroy a tree at Walden as to impeach a president, and the values of Thoreau and Emerson should be consulted not only from year to year, but from day to day by those responsible for Walden, whoever they may be."

Prof. Carl J. Friedrich: "I am deeply shocked about this desecration of a world shrine."

#### SAVE WALDEN CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY

The pleasantly surprising amount of publicity for the "Save Walden" campaign continues. Add to the items listed in the previous bulletin: BOSTON GLOBE, Aug. 9, Sept. 14; CAPE CODDER, Sept. 26; CHICAGO TRIBUNE, Aug. 26; CONCORD ENTERPRISE, June 27; CONCORD JOURNAL, Aug. 1, 8, 15; HORSE FLY (Taos, N.M.), Aug. 29; LONDON TIMES, Aug. 29, Sept. 3; LONG ISLAND PRESS, Sept. 8; LOWELL SUN, July 6; MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE, Sept. 21; NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, Sept. 15, 17; NEW YORK TIMES, Aug. 19, 27, 28, Sept. 8, 10, 15, 22, 23, 25; PROVINCETOWN ADVOCATE, Sept. 26; ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH, Aug. 25 (a two-page spread!); SATURDAY REVIEW, Aug. 17, 31, Sept. 21; VINEYARD GAZETTE, Sept. 20; WORCESTER GAZETTE, July 12, Aug. 27. Please keep the secretary informed of new items and ones he has missed.

#### A FOOTNOTE ON CAPE COD by T. Y. Davis

On p. 95 of the Walden Edition of CAPE COD, the Wellfleet Oysterman asks Thoreau, "Can you tell me how Axy is spelt, and what it means? Axy, there's a girl over here is named Axy. Now what is it? What does it mean? Is it Scripture? I've read my Bible twenty-five years over and over and I never came across it." Thoreau couldn't answer the old man's question. But the name does occur in the Bible. It's spelled two ways. In I Chronicles 2:49 the name is spelt "Achsa." And in Joshua 15: 16, 17 the name appears as "Achsa." She was the daughter of one Caleb.

#### NOTES AND QUERIES . . .

The Rochester group of the Thoreau Society conducted a nature trail walk at the Burroughs-Audubon Nature Sanctuary in Raid-road Mills, N.Y., on July 20, under the leadership of W. Stephen Thomas.

The NEW YORK TIMES for Sept. 22 reports that SELECTED WRITINGS ON NATURE AND LIBERTY by Thoreau (edited by Cargill) sold out an edition of 4000 copies in nine weeks in India.

Playhouse 90 presented a play entitled "A Sound of Different Drummers" on TV on

Oct. 3. The title is of course from WALDEN and we understand there were many references to Thoreau in the play.

Miss Betty Jane Elligen is working on a Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Oklahoma on "Thoreau: His Literary Theory and Criticism."

NEWSWEEK for July 22 published a pretty far-fetched comparison of Thoreau and Ted Williams, the ball player. (p. 79)

Prof. Egbert S. Oliver of the University of Oregon writes that he has just returned from a year in India as a Fulbright lecturer and "found real interest in Thoreau on the part of my students and those faculty members who had read much in American literature. They generally seemed to feel that Thoreau was of their kind and spoke their language."

Do you recognize Thoreau in the accompanying illustration? It is from the cover of the May, 1956, WQXR PROGRAM GUIDE for the New York City radio station.



*"Let him step  
to the music which  
he hears,  
however measured  
or far away."*

We have just noticed in the advertisements in Adams Tolman's INDIAN RELICS IN CONCORD (Concord, 1901?) that H.S. Richardson of Concord sold "Thoreau Penholders made from wood grown on the old Thoreau place." Are any of these still extant?

#### ADDITIONS TO THE THOREAU BIBLIOGRAPHY...WH

- Adams, Richard P. "Architecture and the Romantic Tradition." AMERICAN QUARTERLY, IX (Spring, 1957), 46-92. T's ideas compared to those of Frank Lloyd Wright.
- Adams, T.B. "Thoreau and Emerson 1957." CONCORD JOURNAL. July 25, 1957. Sonnet. [Ballou, Adin?] "The Fluvial Stroll." NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE. July 28, 1957. An editorial on T's river strolls.
- Boyle, Hal. "A Southern Thoreau." WORCESTER EVENING GAZETTE. July 10, 1957. On Bert Garner, Tennessee follower of T.
- Breit, Harvey. "Take It On the Lam." NEW YORK TIMES. Aug. 18, 1957. Poem.
- Briggs, Olga Hampel. "Walden World." CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR. July 8, 1957. Poem.
- Cameron, Kenneth. "Four Uncollected Thoreau Poems--A Correction." ESQ, VI (1957), 48. Calls attention to error in earlier article.
- "Freshman Thoreau Opposes Harvard's Marking System." ESQ, VIII (1957), 17-18. The text of a letter by Thoreau and his classmates to the faculty of Harvard opposing the grading system in force in his freshman year.
- "Helen Thoreau Writes to Dr. Shattuck in 1838." ESQ, VI (1957), 48. Text of a letter to her physician giving symptoms of her illness.
- "A Manuscript Fragment of Thoreau's Quebec Journey of 1850." ESQ, VIII (1957) 19. Facsimile of page of MS.

----- "Ralph Cudworth and Thoreau's Translations of an Orphic Hymn." ESQ, VIII (1957), 31-36. T's use of Cudworth in translating a Greek poem.

----- "Jones Very and Thoreau--The 'Greek' Myth." ESQ, VII (1957), 39-40. Points out that legend that T. studied under Very at Harvard is false.

----- "Receipt Signed by Thoreau's Father" ESQ, IX (1957), 42. Facsimile of bill.

----- "The Solitary Thoreau of the Alumni Notes." ESQ, VII (1957), 2-37. A thoroughly documented account of T and his college class.

----- "Thoreau Bills His Pupils at the Concord Academy." ESQ, VI (1957), 47-50. Facsimiles of bills T sent his pupils.

----- "Thoreau, Parker, and Emerson's 'Mousetrap' in the Monitor (1862)." ESQ, VII (1957), 42-45. Points out an early version of E's mousetrap proverb applied to T. in 1862.

Cantwell, Robert. "Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau." in FAMOUS AMERICAN MEN OF LETTERS. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1956. pp. 75-90. A brief sketch of T's life for teen-agers.

Clune, Henry W. "She Might Have Been Ashamed." ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT CHRONICLE. May 19, 1957. Satirical reflections in a night club on T.

Estrada, Ezequiel Martinez. "De Los Hombres Libres: Henry David Thoreau." LA PRENSA (Buenos Aires). June 16, 1957.

Fertig, Walter L. "John Sullivan Dwight's Pre-publication Notice of WALDEN." NEQ, XXX (March, 1957), 84-90. Discovery of a hitherto unnoticed early review of WALDEN.

FITCHBURG SENTINEL. "Walden Will Be Thoreau's Crown." May 10, 1922. Account of gift of Walden Reservation to state by Emersons.

Hall, Leonard. "Time to Think." in COUNTRY YEAR. New York: Harper, 1957. pp. 70-75. Brief essay on T.

Humphrey, Hubert H. "The Thoreau Society." CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Aug. 13, 1957. pp. 13184-13188. Account of the 1957 annual meeting with text of addresses by Zahniser and Mehta. We are having reprints of this mailed out to our members by Senator Humphrey's office.

Klossner, Erich S. "Thoreau's Walden Pond." WINGS, XIII (Autumn, 1957), 17. Poem.

Marcus, Morton J. "Events at Walden Pond." ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH. Sept. 1, 1957. Poem.

McCord, David. TROUT IN THE MILK. [Cambridge, Mass.] 1957. 4pp. A cleverly written appeal for the Harvard [University] Fund, parodying the style of T.

Mehta, G.L. "Thoreau and Gandhi." CONCORD JOURNAL. Aug. 15, 1957. Text of his address at the annual meeting.

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE. "Thoreau House Museum Plans Are in Danger." Aug. 8, 1948. On unsuccessful drive to buy the Thoreau-Alcott House.

Sagendorph, Robb. "Two Roads to Adventure." THIS WEEK. March 24, 1957. p. 2. Brief tribute to T.

Sarma, Sreekrishna. "A Short Study of Oriental Influence upon H. D. Thoreau with Special Reference to His 'Walden.'" JAHRBUCH FÜR AMERIKASTUDIEN, I (1957?), 76-92.

Shanley, J. Lyndon. The Making of Walden. Univ. of Chicago Press. 1957. 208pp. \$5. Undoubtedly the most important book on Thoreau of the year--in fact, in some years. Prof. Shanley has untangled the mess of WALDEN manuscripts in Huntington Library and discovered therein large portions of seven different drafts of the

book, including almost all of the first draft. On the basis of his discovery he is able to show us clearly just how T. developed, polished, and refined his masterpiece. Most important of all, he gives us the nearly complete text of the first draft--which in itself is an amazingly polished work of art. A particularly valuable portion of the book is Mr. Shanley's emphasis on the structure of WALDEN--a discussion which belies the popular claim that the book is formless. And we agree heartily with his thesis that Thoreau was not unhappy and frustrated, as many would claim. This is a must book for any Thoreauvian and one of the outstanding books in the history of American literary scholarship.

Thoreau, Henry David. ELAMAA METSASSA. Helsinki: Werner Soderstrom. Finnish edition of WALDEN translated by Mikko Kilpi. 1955?

----- "Independence." in Joseph Ishill, ed. FREE VISTAS. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Oriole Press, 1933. p. 177

----- "Journal." in Philip Dunaway & Mel Evans, eds. A TREASURY OF THE WORLD'S GREAT DIARIES. New York: Doubleday, 1957.

----- THE PORTABLE THOREAU. Edited by Carl Bode. New York: Viking, 1957. 696pp. \$1.45. Revised, paperbound edition of earlier anthology.

----- WALDEN. Edited by Sherman Paul. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1957. Riverside Edition A14. Unquestionably the best paperbound edition of WALDEN in print today. A brilliant introduction and some annotations.

----- ["Walt Whitman"]. in Joseph Ishill, ed. THE CENTENARY OF WALT WHITMAN'S LEAVES OF GRASS. Berkeley Heights, N.J. Oriole Press, 1955. pp. 26-28. Reprints T's letter to Blake on Whitman.

[Wheeler, Ruth]. "The Wright Tavern." CONCORD JOURNAL. July 25, 1957. Includes material on the T. family.

[Woolf, Virginia]. "Thoreau." [London] TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT. July, 1917. pp. 325-326. A centennial tribute.

Zahniser, Howard. "Thoreau and the Preservation of Wildness." Washington: The Wilderness Society, [1957]. 7pp. Mimeographed text of annual meeting address.

We are indebted to the following for information used in this and the summer bulletin: R.Adams, H.Adel, E.Amos, F.Babcock, T.Bailey, H.Bierce, E.Brook, S.Brook, H.Cahoon, A.Campbell, R.Cherry, L.Chirin, W.Cummings, B.Gurler, D.Harrison, I.Hoover, G.Hosmer, G.Hourwich, W.Houston, J.Ishill, J.Kennedy, A.Kovar, N.Lehrman, A.Lowmes, G.Megathlin, K.Megathlin, M.Miskell, D.Moure, R.Needham, T.Nelson, P.Oehser, E.Oliver, L.Pederson, F.Piper, E.Rowse, R.Schaeble, A.Shedd, W.Spofford, R.Stowell, W.Sutton, M.Swallier, S.Thomas, A.Volkman, P.Walker, A.Wesley, R.Wheeler, W.White, H.Wiggins, E.Wilson, H.Zahniser. Please keep the secretary informed of new Thoreau items and ones he has missed.

The Thoreau Society, Inc., is an informal organization of students and followers of Henry David Thoreau. Its bulletins are issued quarterly; its booklets, occasionally. Annual meetings are held in Concord each July. Officers of the society are Edwin Way Teale, Baldwin, L.I., president; Mrs. Herbert Hosmer, Concord, Mass., vice-president; and Walter Harding, secretary-treasurer. Annual membership is one dollar; life membership, \$25. Communications concerning membership or publications should be addressed to the secretary:

Walter Harding  
State University Teachers College  
Geneseo, New York